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Faith in the Civic Sphere

CEDARVILLE, OHIO -- Faith and the civic sphere may seem incompatible, but Lisa Gates' faith driven her involvement in the public arena.

Gates, vice president of communications for The Buckeye Institute, a nonprofit free market research and educational institution in Columbus, Ohio, will speak at Cedarville University Wednesday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m. in the Center for Biblical and Theological Studies.

The event, which is open to the public and free of charge, is sponsored by the Center for Political Studies. Registration is not required.

Gates is a strategic communications professional with more than 20 years of experience in government, politics, public policy advocacy and democracy building. A veteran of statewide campaigns in Ohio and Florida, Gates has extensive experience working with government officials at both the state and federal level.

Gates will speak about being a Christian in the political sphere, explaining how her faith shapes the way she approaches her job.

"Seeing models for how faith shapes the way Christians should approach their jobs is important for students," said Dr. Mark Caleb Smith, professor of political science and director of Cedarville's Center for Political Studies. "Hearing from a Christian who has walked down a particular career path gives students courage and inspiration for what they will be able to do in the near future."

Gates got her start in public affairs working in the communications office of then-Gov. George V. Voinovich of Ohio and later working on his 1998 U.S. Senate campaign.

In addition to her current role, Gates has also served as director of communications at the International Republican Institute (IRI), a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization that supports individuals attempting to build democratic institutions and accountable, transparent governments around the globe.

During her time at IRI, Gates monitored 21 international elections, including in Afghanistan, Egypt, Georgia, Honduras, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nigeria, Somaliland, Tunisia and Ukraine.

Prior to joining IRI, Gates served as a public affairs officer and director of the International Press Center for the Coalition Provisional Authority and the U.S. Mission in Baghdad, Iraq. She moved to Iraq after a

year at the U.S. Department of Labor, where she served as a special assistant to the secretary for public affairs.

Gate's work in government and for nonprofits is grounded in her faith and the knowledge that living in a stable democracy is a blessing from God. According to Gates, that blessing should be honored by practicing good governance, respecting those we disagree with and implementing good public policy to build thriving communities and provide justice in our neighborhoods, communities, and around the world.

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 4,193 undergraduate, graduate, and online students in more than 150 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings, and leading student satisfaction ratings. For more information about the University, visit www.cedarville.edu.